



# Presentation Senior School

"A community of learners inspired by the vision and values of Nano Nagle"

19 June 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wish to very sincerely thank all of the parents/guardians who responded to the uniform survey published on the school website. There were thirty-five responses and I have uploaded a file containing the collated responses to the website – [www.presentationmullingar.ie](http://www.presentationmullingar.ie).

It is clear from the comments that some parents/guardians are concerned about the additional cost attached to a uniform jumper with a crest. I very genuinely understand and appreciate that parents/guardians are finding it difficult to get by financially and all unnecessary expenditure must now be reduced or eliminated. However, in relation to the school uniform and crest I wish to respectfully inform parents that the Board of Management must balance the needs of all parents with the need to make decisions that will improve and enhance our school into the longer term.

I wish to respectfully inform parents/guardians that, at a meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Board of Management made the following decisions:

1. The official school uniform from September 2013 will be as follows:

Girl	Boy
Navy <b>V-neck jumper</b> with <b>school crest/logo</b> <i>(available from Tots Paradise/The Uniform Shop, Enterprise Centre)</i>	Navy <b>V-neck jumper</b> with <b>school crest/logo</b> <i>(available from Tots Paradise/The Uniform Shop, Enterprise Centre)</i>
Light Blue Blouse/Shirt	Light Blue Shirt
Navy Skirt/Pinafore/Bootleg Trousers	Navy Trousers
Navy/Black Socks or Tights	Navy/Black Socks
Black FLAT Shoes – no high heeled platforms shoes or boots	Black Shoes
<b>Red Tracksuit Top with school name</b> <i>(to be ordered through the school in June)</i>	<b>Red Tracksuit Top with school name</b> <i>(to be ordered through the school in June)</i>
<b>White Polo t-shirt</b>	<b>White Polo t-shirt</b>
Navy O'Neills Tracksuit bottoms <i>(can be ordered through the school in June)</i>	Navy O'Neills Tracksuit bottoms <i>(can be ordered through the school in June)</i>
<b>Optional</b> Uniform Jacket with logo	<b>Optional</b> Uniform Jacket with logo

2. All children will be required to wear a **blue blouse or shirt**. Polo shirts will no longer be part of the regular school uniform.
3. There will be a lead in time of one year. This means that both the current and new uniforms will be acceptable in the 2013/2014 school year.
4. A significantly increased effort will be made to improve compliance with the uniform policy.

I sincerely hope that parents/guardians will understand and appreciate that this change to the uniform is being made in the wider context of ongoing school improvements which we have made over the last number of years to modernise and improve the image of the school and service provided to families in the local community.



Recent school improvements include:

1. Building refurbished at a cost of 1.1 million
2. ICT infrastructure and resources completely upgraded
3. Improved communication with parents/guardians via the text messaging service, email, website and information meetings.
4. Implementation of literacy and numeracy programmes to raise standards of attainment.
5. Provision of a new library for books and resources
6. Extension to school yard and development of sensory garden
7. Provision of the following free extra-curricular activities – Choir, Enrichment Group, Sport, ICT Group
8. Change of school status to co-educational (Girls and Boys) in response to feedback received from parents.
9. Collaboration with the Board of Management and staff in the Junior School to ensure that there is a seamless primary education experience for girls and boys from junior infants to sixth class on the Presentation campus.

With respect to the additional cost of a uniform with a crest I would like parents/guardians to be aware of the following;

1. The new red O'Neill's tracksuit top with the navy piping and school name will cost €18 which is the same price as that charged for the navy tracksuit top last year.
2. The navy O'Neill's tracksuit bottoms are being sold for €29 which is the same price as last year.
3. The full O'Neill's tracksuit will be supplied for €47 which is significantly cheaper than the cost of O'Neill's tracksuits purchased from sports-wear retailers.
4. The new jumper with the crest is €24.95 in the Uniform Shop and Tots Paradise. I accept that this is somewhat more expensive than generic brands purchased from large clothing retailers.
5. The boot-leg trousers, skirt and light blue blouse/shirt remain unchanged.
6. The uniform jacket is optional.

I would also like to point out that, in an effort to reduce back-to-school costs for parents/guardians, the school will:

1. Organise second-hand book sales in the school in order to provide opportunities for children to purchase or sell second-hand school books.
2. Extend the book-rental scheme to include Irish readers with no additional cost for parents/guardians.
3. Purchase a subscription for the Mathletics Programme (Online Mathematics Programme) for each individual child in the school.
4. Spend approximately €8000 on literacy resources this year for which the children will have access to without charge.

I sincerely hope that, after reading this letter, parents/guardians and their children will understand how committed the staff and Board of Management are to ongoing long-term school improvements. I hope you will also understand our rationale for making much needed changes and improvements to the school uniform and that every effort is being made to reduce the back-to-school costs for all parents/guardians.

Once again, I wish to sincerely thank all those who gave us feedback in the online survey. Also, I very much regret any inconvenience caused by changes made to the uniform at this late stage in the school-year.

Your support and co-operation throughout the year is very much appreciated by the staff and myself.

Yours faithfully,

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Michael Tunney  
Principal

